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Attractions

Critters in Our Midst:
Wading Birds

Key Players Entertain with
a New Romantic Comedy

What's Hot & What's Not

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Key Largo Locator Map Page
Getting from Here to There

All the Buzz

Coco-Nut Funnies

Business in the Keys

Adopt a Key Largo Shelter Pet
Conch Characters



Roseate spoonbill chicks are almost pure white. Like the Pink Flamingo, the Roseate Spoonbill's pink color is caused by the nutritious food they eat, including small crustaceans such as shrimp, and the occasional fish, insects and plant parts. Photo by Carol Ellis; see her article on Wading Birds this month, pages 4-5.

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Coconut Telegraph

March 2025

Volume 19 Issue #223

Prestige Publishing, Inc

101425 Overseas Hwy.

PMB #628

Key Largo, FL 33037

Deadline

for the Coconut

Telegraph's

next issue is **Thursday,**

March 13, 2025

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The Coconut Telegraph is

available free online:

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The Speeders — A blog by Luke Sommer Glenn

I am the product of my predecessors. Dad had a a model T or A, maybe both a T and A. His folks admonished him for driving like a maniac up in the hollows of West by God (Virginia). This was the training ground for his eventual role as a funeral director and embalmer which the funeral home also ran an ambulance service post WW2, before the days of 911 and community sponsored, dedicated paramedics.

Dad was a skilled driver who drove a lot of miles on unpaved mountain roads in all kinds of weather. That being said, mom didn't share dad's fondness for hauling ass on gravel roads in the mountains.

We were heading out to California to visit my sister in the summer of '72. We stopped at the typical tourist spots like New Orleans, the Astrodome, Boot Hill in Tombstone, the Carlsbad Caverns...

Mom was so afraid of heights that she refused to get out of the car at the Grand Canyon. That didn't stop dad from hauling ass on the narrow gravel roads around the Morenci open pit copper mine in Arizona. I have no idea why dad wanted to go there but I was standing up in the back with my arms draped over the front seat, enjoying the thrilling ride, with no fear, not even the thought of the possibility that dad could possibly crash.

Mom was on the floorboard of the car, crying and begging my dad to slow down... he would remind her of his experience on "worse roads than this." "Oh Sam..." she sobbed in a voice trembling with genuine fear. Dad's given name was Talmage but they called him Sam. Go figure.

The more frightened she was, the angrier dad got. It

hurt his pride that she didn't have enough faith/confidence in his abilities to sit in the seat. Most people put on the seatbelt in a speeding automobile but mom would have crawled under the seat like a cat if she could have fit.

It wasn't the speed but the sheer, 1000' drop-off that got to mom. She loved speed, well going fast anyway.

Dad would always get the most powerful engine that GM offered. They had a 500 cubic inch Cadillac hearse at the funeral home. He had a 454 cid Oldsmobile Delta with the oversized 4 barrel carburetor that mom and I were coming back to Florida in after leaving dad to work at the funeral home in WV.

The interstate wasn't completed back then and we had to take a lot of two-lane roads. Mom had a lead foot and we were scooting through Georgia, "flying low," mom called it. I was standing on my knees in the back seat playing with my toys on the big back deck, looking out the back window. This was before child seats or mandatory seat belts, obviously. The freedom of movement while on a long ass road trip was worth the risk of going through the windshield in the event of a head on collision, as someone who has been through a few windows...

Any who, as mom was zipping along nonchalantly, I was watching out the back window

and I noticed a tiny, bubble gum cop light way off in the distance. After a while, I could tell that it was gaining on us. Had I not been an unwitting child I might have thought to tell mom to step on it.

Another short while passes and he is finally upon us and mom pulls to the side. I was about five or so making my mom about 47-48, needless to say he assumed that she was my grandmother.

I had never seen my mom carrying on like that. Dad was always the bullshitter, not mom. She went right along with his assumption that she was a grandmotherly type who wasn't used to having to drive by herself in her husband's muscle car.

The officer tells her that his interceptor barely caught up with her, that he had been chasing her for 30 miles and what was she doing going 120 with her grandkid in the car?

Mom turned on the tears, explaining how MAD her husband would be if she got a ticket and promised to watch her speed. He was impressed with dad's taste in cars and was surprised that it was a little old lady driving it. As soon as he was out of eyesight, mom was back to speed.

She naturally drove fast.



A 1966 Olds with the biggest motor GM offered that year.

even got stopped for speeding in the school zone taking my niece and nephew to school when she was in her 80s.

I inherited that tendency to haul ass through traffic. The only thing that kept me from speeding was the fear of being pulled over and searched, which happened enough for me to know how unpleasant it is to have your entire life interrupted for a few grams of contraband.

I also grew up driving with a beer between my knees, before that was illegal. When I got off work and bought a twelve pack for the evening, I liked to enjoy the first frosty treat on the way home, especially through the slow, rush hour traffic. That and a joint made the ride home a lot less stressful.

Now that I'm sober and don't have to fear going to jail for having my state-approved marijuana (as opposed to the street variety), I drive like my parents did, fast. I relieve stress by cussing out "no driving morons." I don't gesture or blow my horn, I just vocalize my displeasure to my van and any poor soul that chooses to ride with me. It allows me to be more patient with my fellow inhabitants of this torturous world of aggravations when I have to deal with them face to face.

Mom was 92 when she last told me about getting pulled over on the way to church... "what cop is going to give a sweet old lady on her way to church a speeding ticket," mom let out an evil little laugh...

Luke Sommer Glenn is a local entertainer and Conch Character.



For more info: www.lukesommerglenn.com

Critters in Our Midst: Wading Birds

by Carol Ellis



A huge congregation of wading birds on a cold, overcast morning in Crocodile Lake. Photo by Jeanette Rivera.

The more I write about nature, the more people identify me with the subject. Every week, I get texts and emails with pictures, links to articles and sometimes even a call to get out here NOW... there's a huge flock of birds at the three way... referring to the intersection of Card Sound Road at Crocodile Lake in North Key Largo. From Ocean Reef, as you turn north on Card Sound Road, it is the first wetland to the right; a productive birding spot.



The Kingfisher often perches along Card Sound Road. Their "mohawk" style feathers on their head give the kingfisher an air of confidence.

Such was the case on January 31st, about 8:00 am on a really cold morning with overcast sky when I received a call from Jeanette Rivera, naturalist at Ocean Reef, who was heading to work when she spotted a huge congregation of wading birds. She snapped a photo with her iPhone and in it were White Ibis, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, White Pelican, Great White Heron, Reddish Egret and Wood Stork. It was just beautiful. Rivera said, "I was in shock that there were so many birds in that one spot! It was really magical... special... I love it!" As you can tell, Jeanette is very passionate about nature.

Of the birds present on this morning, the Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, White Pelican, and Great White Heron were a special treat, as they are most typically seen flying overhead, but on this day they were all here!

According to Isabella Collamati, Invasive Species Biologist at Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge, "time of day, time of year, temperature, and tide would probably be the biggest factors for why they chose to gather that day. It all lined up

so that the water was deep enough to host enough prey to keep all parties interested, but shallow enough to make the hunting easier." The birds' diet consists of minnows, mullet, and killifish, and they are pickier about size than species.

By the time I arrived, some of the birds had already left, but there were still dozens of birds. I had fun photographing the Reddish Egret and its distinctive hunting behavior. As it searched for fish, it would do a "crazy dance" as it jumped and hopped back and forth with outstretched wings raised over its head, peering at the water. The wings cast a shadow so they can see the prey better. The Reddish Egret is also one of the rare egrets, with only 2,000 pairs thought to be breeding in the U.S.

A Roseate Spoonbill sat grooming on a red mangrove perch. Not sure, perhaps it was there because the tide had risen and its short legs were no longer able to maneuver in the deepening wetland. Spoonbills have the broadened bill-ends full of nerve endings, to feel for animals when mud grubbing.

Though not a wading bird, I saw a Belted Kingfisher hunting near this shallow wetland. The Kingfisher can regularly be seen perched on the power lines along Card Sound Road.

Winter and Spring is nesting season for these birds, though I am not sure where these particular birds were



Show me a little pink, peach and fuschia, you pretty Rosie! Spoonbills have broadened bill ends full of nerve endings, to feel for animals when mud grubbing.

from. Historically wading birds nested in the small Keys and nearby mangrove islands, within Florida Bay, far from human disturbances. The Everglades supports 70-90% of all wading bird nests annually. Wading birds initiated approx 89,514 nests in the Everglades in 2021. The wading bird nesting in 2021 was the highest recorded in 80 years.

Wading Birds...

CONTINUED Photos by Carol Ellis except as noted.



A solitary Great Egret in mating plumage, standing beside White Ibis, which is the most numerous wading bird species in South Florida.

Nesting success is highly dependent on the availability of fish, waters shallow enough to concentrate the fish, and water just the right level for the birds to wade in. Wading birds are abandoning their traditional nesting grounds in Florida Bay, and are moving north, partly due to increased salinity and the resulting reduction of species of fish that thrive in brackish water. Salinity of the Florida Bay is a problem, and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is intended to divert more fresh water through Taylor Slough to Florida Bay to improve the Bay's health by reducing salinity. On the mainland Everglades, Madeira Hammock and Paurotis Pond, are locations with a reliable number of birds and they are also a short field trip from the Keys.



CAROL ELLIS has lived in South Florida her entire life and Key Largo for 37 years. Currently a Master Gardener volunteer, Carol has a degree in Journalism from the University of Florida and is the resident photographer /artist at Ocean Reef Club.



Observe how the Reddish Egret hunts. They do a "Crazy Dance" using their wings to shade the water for a better view and then give chase until they can strike their prey. Reddish Egrets differ from other egret species, that simply stand and wait for food to come before they strike.

Caribsea Victorious at 40th Islamorada Women’s Sailfish Tournament

Hosted by Ladies, Let’s Go Fishing — A Thrilling Battle to the Finish!

The 40th annual Islamorada Women’s Sailfish Tournament, January 31 to February 2, delivered an exhilarating competition with 52 sailfish releases, including multiple quads and triple hookups. This milestone event was hosted for the first time by Ladies, Let’s Go Fishing (LLGF), a well-known organization dedicated to teaching and empowering women in the sport of fishing. Participants fished from their own boats or aboard chartered vessels.

A Tight Race to the Finish

The competition was fierce from the start. Day 1, Tunnel Vision took an early lead with 4 sailfish releases, followed closely by Caribsea with four releases while Kay K IV had one. However, Day 2, the sailfish bite intensified, setting up an exciting showdown between Kay K IV and Caribsea for first place.

In a dramatic finish, just 2 minutes before lines out, Caribsea landed a crucial double-header, including a release by Jolene Chandler of Jacksonville, who had never released a sailfish prior to the tournament. This final push secured Caribsea’s victory with 11 sailfish releases, while Kay K IV claimed second place with 8 releases. Silent Hunter took third place, earning High Point Angler honors for Alysha Aratari, who logged an impressive 8 sailfish releases.



High Point Angler Alysha Aratari says “... a dream come true!”

Tournament Winners

- First Place Team: Caribsea (11 sailfish releases) – Capt. Kenny Spaulding, Islamorada
- Second Place Team: Kay K IV (8 sailfish releases) – Capt. Dave Galen, Islamorada
- Third Place Team: Silent Hunter (8 sailfish releases) – Capt. BJ Meyer, Marathon
- High Point Angler: Alysha Aratari, Marathon (8 releases on Silent Hunter with Capt. BJ Meyer)
- Top Mahi: Nicole Edwards, Tavernier (10.93 lbs. on Send It with Capt. Mike Edwards)
- Top Kingfish: Madison Ryan, Tavernier (11.53 lbs. on Kay K IV with Capt. David Galen)
- Top Tuna: Merida Garrell, Tavernier (10 lbs. on Bottom’d Out with Capt. Josh Krieg)

The tournament upholds a strong commitment to conservation, ensuring all sailfish are released and limiting fishing to 20 lb. test line. Tammie Gurgiolo, Tournament Director for the past 29 years, helped transition the event to its new host, LLGF.

Betty Bauman, LLGF Founder and Tournament Director, remarked: “Half of the anglers on the top two boats had never released a sailfish before. This tournament proves that whether you’re a seasoned angler or a beginner, the excitement is unmatched!”

The LLGF series is supported by major partners and Monroe County Tourist Development Council; see the website for details.



RIGHT: Nicole Edwards (Tavernier, FL) with the top mahi on *Send It*.



First Place *Caribsea* Anglers: Susan Anthony (Fort Myers, FL), Jolene Chandler (Jacksonville, FL), Alisa Johnson (Chandler, TX), and Pam Ridgle (Brownsboro, TX) celebrate first place on *Caribsea*.



Second Place *Kay K IV* Team: Mitchell Harris, Avery Hartman, Capt. David Galen, Lisa Merritt, Tandra Blosser, and Cheyenne Gaskill (Key Largo, FL) ,



For details on upcoming 2025 LLGF events, including on-water fishing opportunities:

Ladies. Lets Go Fishing!
www.ladiesletsgofishing.com

Contact: (954) 475-9068;
fish@ladiesletsgofishing.com
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Ten Local Photographers Exhibit Their Work at Islamorada Library

Through Friday, April 4th, the Islamorada branch of the Monroe County Public Library will feature an exhibit showcasing original fine art photography and/or digital art based on original photography, curated by local photographer Marcia Brito.

The Islamorada Library is located at MM81.8 Oceanside. A Morada Way Art Walk event is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, from 5-6 PM. Artists will be available to talk about their works. Patrons are welcome to park at the Library and walk over to the Morada Way Art Walk. The exhibit Photographers are members of the Art Guild of the Purple Isles, a group of artists supporting the visual fine arts in all media in the Upper Keys. They welcome new members interested in

the arts and interested in promoting the arts throughout the community.” AGPI provides opportunities for members by sharing artistic knowledge between new and experienced members in group activities, art education classes and workshops including Plein Air painting. AGPI hosts shows and exhibitions for members to present their work to the public, and volunteers within local schools on art related activities with students.

Exhibit Photographers:

- **Marcia Brito** - Photographs the natural beauty of the Keys to encourage environmental conservation for our unique and fragile ecosystems.
- **Louise Lindsay** - “I photograph whatever speaks to my heart. I also enjoy creating digital art elements.”

- **James B Chambers** - “I have enjoyed Nature Photography my whole life and I feel black and white is very dramatic and complements the subject matter.”
- **Daryl Duda** - Audio Visual Artist, has worked in the technical realm of Television and Motion Pictures. In Key Largo searching for interesting images in the sea.
- **Lonell Rice** - “My eye is drawn to the uniqueness of botanicals and nature in general”
- **David Bader** - Shares his images of old Americana and cameras.
- **Julie Austin** - Keys resident and local professional photographer with a passion for capturing the beauty of our local nature.
- **Asta Kraskouskas** - is Lithuanian and loves to explore



- various aspects of life and shades of light.
- **Kelly Walkotten** - Travels photographing wildlife and nature and is continuously inspired by Keys tropical wildlife.
- **Mary Bonde** - Key Largo Artist and Photographer presenting her “Street Art” collection.



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I don't like country music, but I don't mean to denigrate those who do. And for the people who like country music, denigrate means 'put down.'

—Bob Newhart



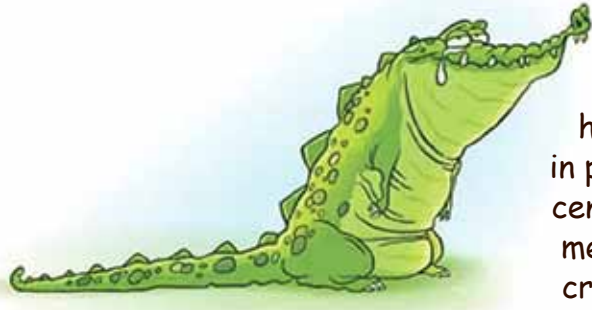
If you're looking for something to do this weekend, you could always secretly replace the litter in your cat's litter box with Pop Rocks



I have never in my life tried to pronounce an "L" so hard than when I just asked the Home Depot guy where I could get some "caulk."

**I ASKED WHAT
LGBTQ MEANT
BUT I COULDN'T
GET A
STRAIGHT ANSWER**

What's Behind Those "Crocodile Tears"?



expression with a pretty long history. It appeared in print in the 16th century, inspired by a medieval belief that crocodiles would shed tears to attract their prey or show false remorse after eating them. The 14th-century travelogue belonging to Sir John Mandeville has one of the earliest mentions of this idiom, describing crocodiles that cry while eating. Now, this is definitely a myth, but it's an excellent way to add some drama to the origins of the expression.

"Crocodile tears" doesn't literally refer to the big reptile shedding tears but has a metaphorical meaning. It exposes people who fake cry, putting on a show to attract sympathy. The idiom appeared in numerous literary creations, one of them being "Othello" by Shakespeare.

The expression is still popular nowadays and can be used in all sorts of contexts, from calling out someone you know personally to criticizing controversial celebrities, politicians, and more. It puts the individual on the spot, revealing that their sorrow is anything but genuine. A similar phrase is "alligator tears" which you may also hear showing up in daily talks.

When you're facing someone who seems to open the floodgates suspiciously or when it doesn't make sense to do so, remember to let them know they appear to be just as honest as the weeping crocodile. It's very likely to run into someone crying crocodile tears because the world is full of people who want all the attention.

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Leaving a Relationship



Leaving a long-term relationship is hard, but sometimes it's necessary for what you want in life.

One of the hardest decisions we ever make in life is leaving a long-term relationship that just isn't working. When attempts at repairing and working out issues aren't working, it may be time to move on. We are emotional creatures, and when our heart-strings are tied to those of another, separating from that person can feel like an act of courage.

It is not something most of us will take lightly, and many of us will struggle with our desire to stay in a relationship that is unfulfilling simply to avoid that pain. We may question whether the happiness we seek even exists, and we may wonder if we might be wiser to simply settle where we are, making the best of what we have.

On the one hand, we almost relish the idea that true happiness is not out there so that we can avoid the pain of change. On the other hand, we feel within ourselves a yearning to fulfill our desire for relationships that are vital and

healing. Ultimately, most of us will follow this call because, deep within ourselves, we know that we deserve to be happy. We all are entitled to be happy, no matter where we find ourselves in this moment, and we are all justified in moving, like plants toward the light, in the direction that leads to our greatest fulfillment.


First, though, we may need to summon the courage to move on from the relationship that appears to be holding us back.

Taking the first steps will be hard, but the happiness we find when we have freed ourselves from a situation that is draining our energy will outshine any hardship we undergo to get there.

If we keep our eyes trained on the horizon, we can begin the work of disentangling ourselves from the relationship that no longer fits. Every step brings us closer to a relationship that will work, and the freedom we need to find the happiness we deserve.

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What Makes Us Feel "Under the Weather"?



Ever heard a someone say that they're feeling under the weather? We've all been there. This phrase suggests that they aren't feeling their best. You may have used the phrase yourself, but do you have any idea about its origins?

It all began with the maritime field, where the "under the weather" idiom seeds were planted. The Oxford English Dictionary mentions that this phrase was printed in the 19th century. At the time, sailors were affected by the rough seas, causing them to feel unwell. The sea became savage when a vicious storm hit, hence the expression "under the weather." It basically refers to being affected by stormy conditions while navigating the waves.

This story isn't set in stone, though. Some suggest that another possible origin of the phrase is ill sailors being sent below deck to recover from the wild weather.

Like many other phrases, "under the weather" shifted from the nautical landscape and migrated to our daily language. Anyone not feeling all right would use the expression to let others know about it in the late 19th century. Its addition to literary creations in the 19th century helped push it toward mainstream language even more.

"Under the weather" has become a standard phrase nowadays, and whether you use it yourself or not, you must've heard it around you at some point. It allows you to express your feelings while sparing people the less comfortable details of your illness. Some similar phrases are "out of sorts" or "feeling off-color."

How close you are to the fierce waves of the sea doesn't matter - anyone can be under the weather today, and the phrase remains a staple in our vocabulary. When you feel the expression escaping your lips, just remember its origins from the old days of seasoned sailors who had to battle violent waves to reach their destinations.

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<small>SATURDAY</small> Jan. 4 *(3pm) <small>NOTE TIME & DAY!</small>	Hungrytown
Feb. 7 (6pm)	Brian Smalley
Mar. 7 (6pm)	The Kennedys
Apr. 4 (6pm)	Katherine Archer

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Rest in Peace

LYNN WENDELL CARPENTER

September 24, 1940 – January 27, 2025
Key Largo



Lynn Wendell Carpenter, born in Essex, Vermont, and a resident of Key Largo, Florida, died on January 27, 2025, at the age of 84. Lynn is survived by his wife, Lorelee Carpenter; and also by his daughters and their families, Laura and Brian Sakos, and Gail and Scott Biere; their daughters, Jessica (BJ Behringer) and Alyssa (Jeremy Elder); and great-grandsons, Wyatt, Logan, and Kaleb Behringer. Lynn was predeceased by his parents, Wendell and Emma Carpenter. He was loved by many friends.

Lynn served in the US Air Force for 22 years as a missile control systems technician and ground radio communications superintendent. Following his retirement from the Air Force, he worked for Lockheed Skunk Works, supervising avionics integration, test and final production for the fleet of USAF F-117 Fighters. Lynn also worked for Automated Production Equipment in Key Largo, helping design and service electronics repair equipment, and owned Key Breeze Engraving for several years. Following his retirement, he worked as the Administrator for the Key Largo Moose Lodge. Lynn was a lifetime member of the Moose, Elks, and VFW. He enjoyed travel, was an avid fisherman, cherished socializing with friends and spending time with his wife, Lolly, and their dog, Cappy. Lynn will be remembered for his kindness, camaraderie and his sense of humor.

A Celebration of Lynn's life will be held Saturday, March 8th, 2:00 pm at the Key Largo Moose Lodge.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to Moose Charities at <https://www.moosecharities.org/ways-to-give/>.



We always have something "Elk-citing" going on!
(Members and Their Guests are Welcome)

Monday: Line Dancing Lessons 5 pm (\$5 cost)
Show Me the Money — Fun card game! 6:30 pm

Wednesday: Members Only—Queen of Hearts
Fun Starts at 6 pm • Drawings at 6:30 and 7:30 pm

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Check out our Facebook page for details.

Sunday Bingo starts at 5 pm

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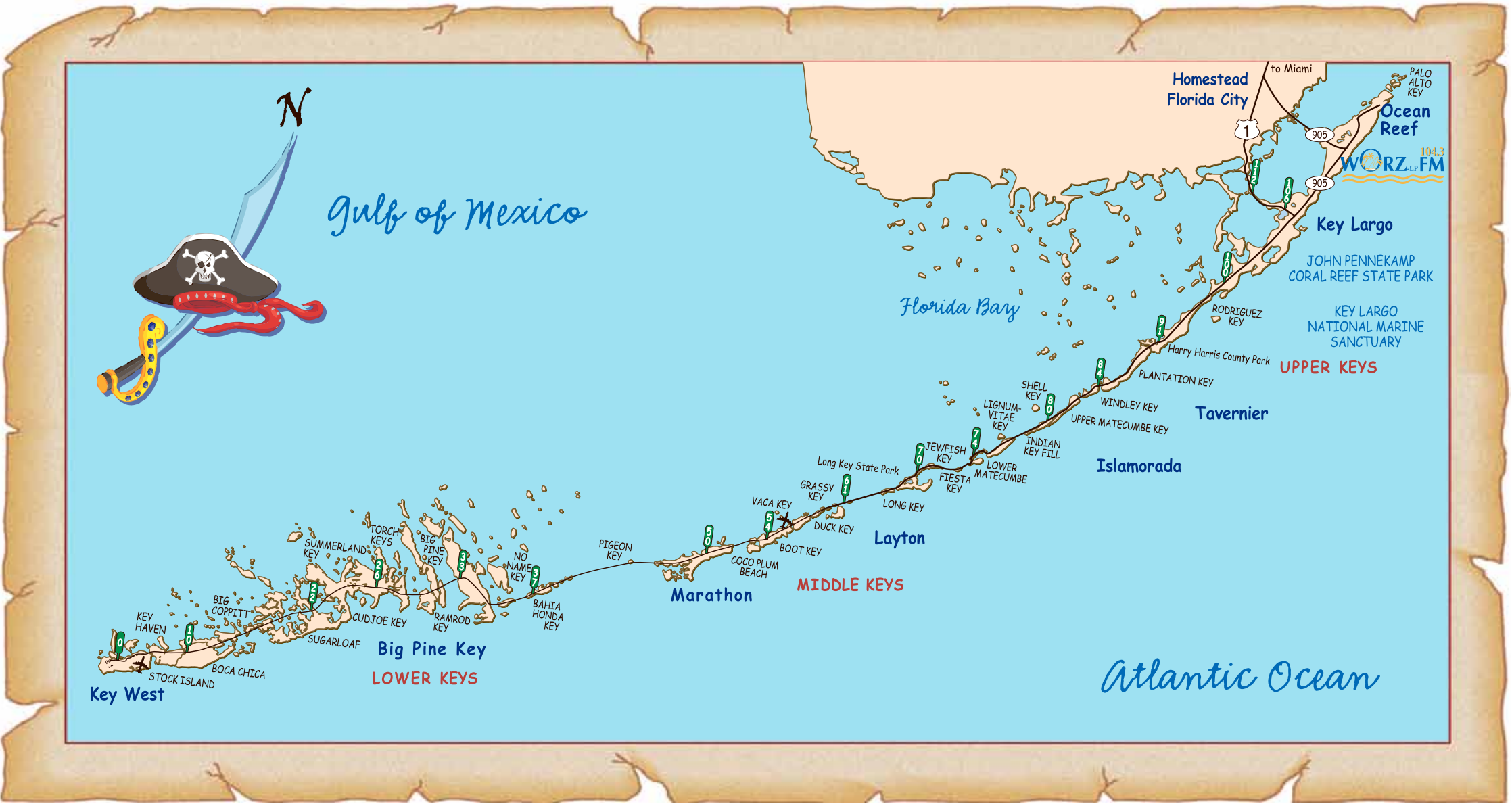
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WEEKLY EVENTS
Sundays 6pm
"Show Me the Moosebucks"

Mondays 6:30pm
Bingo

Tuesdays 6pm
"Show Me the Moosebucks"

Wednesdays 7pm
Live Music & Queen of Hearts

Thursdays 8pm
Karaoke with Jenny & Friends

Fridays 7pm
"Left, Right, Center" at the main bar.

Members & Guests Welcome
Hours 11am - 11pm

New Members Welcome!

Kitchen Open Daily for Lunch
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ST PATRICK'S DAY FUN FACTS

WHY SHAMROCKS?

According to Irish legend, the saint used the three-leafed plant as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity when he was first introducing Christianity to Ireland.

SAINT PATRICK'S BRITISH

Although he made his mark by introducing Christianity to Ireland in the year 432, Patrick wasn't Irish. He was born to Roman parents in Scotland or Wales.

ERIN GO BRAGH

What's the phrase mean? It's a corruption of the Irish Éirinn go Brách, which means roughly "Ireland Forever."

THERE ARE NO FEMALE LEPRECHAUNS

Don't be fooled by holiday decorations showing lady leprechauns. In traditional Irish folk tales, there are only nattily attired little guys.

Critters in our Midst
Carol Ellis

Introducing a stunning new book about wildlife in the Upper Keys with stories as told by and photographed by Carol Ellis

AVAILABLE at Wynns Supermarket - Ocean Reef, Shell World - MM 97.6 Key Largo, Island Home Garden Center - MM 88.7 Plantation Key and Amazon.com

It's Kitten Season! Fix Those Felines!

Please help "fix" pet overpopulation by spaying and neutering your pets.

Free spay and neuter clinics at Key Largo Animal Shelter, normally every 2 weeks.

This program is privately funded by Humane Animal Care Coalition for Upper Keys residents.

Please call the shelter for details and appointments.

Open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm

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Ruby Stern
known as "Miss Ruby", was the matriarch of Downtown Card Sound. She was a familiar site to travelers across Card Sound bridge.

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Dress like a Florida Keys local and be comfortable in the sun in our DRI-FIT shirt designed by Carol Ellis | Little Salt Photography
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SPF 50, long sleeve fishing performance shirt in aqua, limeade and white

Key Players Entertain with a new Romantic Comedy!

The Key Players are at it again! With their next wonderful show "Almost Maine," the romantic comedy that will split your sides and melt your heart! One cold, clear, winter night, as the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, the residents of Almost, Maine, find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend—almost—in this delightful midwinter night's dream. A sweet, poignant and witty show of relationships, with both veteran actors and newcomers to the stage, you will find yourself relating to the characters in this tiny town of Almost, in the State of Maine. So come and support Live Theater in the Upper Keys at The Murray Nelson, 102050 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo. Call 305-942-4339 for more information. TheKeyPlayers.org



Jay Ware in "Sad & Glad"



Cindy Smith and Bill Cobey in "Story of Hope"



Gaby and Robert Pozo in "This Hurts"



Cristina Salvesen and Jay Ware in "Getting it Back"

Almost, MAINE
By John Cariani
Directed / Produced by Jonelle Kop

THE ROMANTIC COMEDY THAT WILL SPLIT YOUR SIDES AND MELT YOUR HEART!
THE STORY: Welcome to Almost, Maine, a place that's so far north, it's almost not in the United States. It's almost in Canada, but it's not quite a town, so it Almost doesn't exist. One cold, clear, winter night, as the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, the residents of Almost, Maine, find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend—almost—in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

THU. FEB 27 7:30 PM
FRI. FEB 28 7:30 PM
SAT. MAR 1 7:30 PM
THU. MAR 6 7:30 PM
FRI. MAR 7 7:30 PM
SAT. MAR 8 7:30 PM
SUNDAY MATINEE MAR 9 2:00 PM

Performing at the Murray E. Nelson Gov. & Cultural Center
102050 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo

Lobby opens one hour before curtain; seating 1/2 hour before curtain.

Tickets \$20 Online and at the door • Tickets available at the ticket outlets in advance for \$15
Student tickets at the door only \$10.

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at PostNet Store Plaza 88, Islamorada MM 88

More info/online tickets: www.TheKeyPlayers.org



Luna Rivera in "They Fell"



Cristina Salvesen in "They Fell"



Cindy Smith and Robert Pozo in "Where it Went"



Julia Rush and Alejandro Godinez in "The Prologue"

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On the Water

ON THE MAP

Key Largo

In Key Largo, we navigate by Mile Markers! Look for the little green signs and mile indicators on power poles to find your way.

Legend

U.S. Highway

State Highway

Boat Ramp

Mile Marker

Point of Interest

Dive Site

Dive Wreck

Swim with Dolphins



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ON THE MAP

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ON THE MAP

March Events and Programs at Key Largo Library

The Key Largo Branch of the Monroe County Library System is hosting the following programs this month. All library programs are free and open to the public. Program funding provided by the Friends of the Key Largo Library and the Florida Keys Children's Foundation. Visit KeysLibraries.org for books, streaming movies, ebooks, events and more.

KEY LARGO BRANCH LIBRARY • TRADEWINDS SHOPPING CENTER AT MM 101.4 OCEANSIDE.

SPECIAL EVENTS

March 1-31 Art Exhibit in the Key Largo Branch Library: Community Student Art Show. Art created during the previous classes at the library will be on display, plus instructor art: watercolor, Acrylic, Batik, Gyotaku, & a Florida Keys-inspired mural. Sponsored by the Friends of the Key Largo Library and the Florida Keys Council of the Arts.

March 18, 4pm LEGO Club: Build with LOTS of LEGOs (provided). Challenge: Cards. Ages 6-11.

March 5, 9am-12pm 1st Wednesday Plant Clinic & Sun Catcher Activity. Master Gardeners answer queries. Bring a splash of color and creativity to your home or garden with a fun and easy DIY sun catcher project! Supplies provided. All ages.

March 6, 2 p.m. Great Decisions: China Relations. Watch a brief video on the topic, then discuss. Sponsored by the Friends.

March 7, 6pm 1st Friday Concert: The Kennedys. This accomplished musical duo returns with a selections from their nearly two dozen albums. Free/open to the public. Sponsored by the Friends.

KeysLibraries.org/events
Facebook.com/KeyLargoLibrary
Instagram.com/KeyLargoLibrary

March 10, 1-3pm The Arts Council of the Florida Keys Gather Round. The Friends, local artists and grant partners: Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Fla. Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Fla. Keys Wild Bird Center, Coral Restoration, Marine Lab, and Dolphins Plus Marine Mammal Responder, invite you to enjoy an exhibit of art created by art class participants with light refreshments and an overview of the highlights of six concerts, six eco-presentations and six art classes. See for yourself how art has built community in the Upper Keys.

March 10, 5-7pm Free Hands Only CPR Class led by certified registered nurses from Baptist Health. Reserve at email Tania.Barnett@BaptistHealth.net. Space is limited.

March 12, 10am-12pm Adult Craft: Island Inspirations. Visit KeysLibraries.org for info.

March 12, 2pm Join the Wild Bird Center for a presentation on bird-friendly gardens in the Keys. Make your garden more appealing for our local & migratory feathered friends.

March 13, 10am-2pm Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). Get help with your taxes, with the trained volunteers of the United Way of Collier and the FLKeys. Free tax help for those making \$67,000 or less. More info: uwcollierkeys.org/programs/vita/

March 14, 9am-6pm STEM: Happy Pi Day! Come explore a number that has captivated hearts the world over. Various activities/all ages. Ages 3.14+

March 18, 4pm LEGO Club: Build with LOTS of LEGOs (provided). Challenge: Water Sports. Ages 6-11.

March 20, 2pm Adult Craft. Visit KeysLibraries.org for more details. Supplies provided. Max 20 participants.

March 25, 6pm Books & Bites will discuss Bad Monkey by Carl Hiaasen. Num Thai Sushi Bar & Restaurant. Borrow a book from the library or download from the Libby app.

March 26 1-3pm Homeschool Meet and Greet: Fundamental concepts of force and motion, a perfect activity for making abstract physics concepts more tangible and exciting for young minds. Ages 6-11.

March 27, 4:00pm STEAM: Whirligig Wonders. Let's make some whimsical toys and learn about the physics of motion. Supplies provided. Ages 6-11.

March 28, 4pm Conch Shell Blowing Class presented by Karen Beal and David 'Wavy Davy' Adamusko. Learn to blow the conch shell and enjoy the deep, calming tones it creates. Sponsored by Shell World. Shell provided, max 15. Register at KeysLibraries.org.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Story Time

Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30am for ages 0-5.

Quit Your Way - Tobacco Free Florida, Weds. 1pm Counseling and free nicotine replacement therapy. Hosted by AHEC.

Tech Tutor

Weds. 1-4pm, Bring your device and questions for 1-on-1 help.

Creative Tuesday

1-3 pm: An informal creative afternoon with fellow artists connecting to inspire, rejuvenate, and encourage artistic growth. Bring your own painting supplies and finish your own art or do organized activities.

SBDC Weds., 2-5 pm. The Small Business Development Center at FIU offers no-cost consulting at the Library. Reservation: bbarnes@fiu.edu

Sit + Sew

Fri. 9:30am - 1pm. Bring your current project and meet new friends.

COME TAKE A CLASS!

The Key Largo Library has a variety of offerings, ranging from Book Club and Arts & Crafts for adults to LEGOs to STEM programs. Scan the code to see the complete schedule.

Monthly Community Group Meetings:
1st Sat.: Florida Keys Quilters
1st Mon.:
Upper Keys Fishing Club 6:30pm

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Hours are 11:30am-5:00pm.
Great pay, fun atmosphere.
No experience required but helpful..
Contact Cheryl at 352.460.6204.

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Help Wanted
Kitchen Assistant/Barback

Apply in person between 3 and 10 pm
at Elks Lodge MM 92.6 Tavernier.

See bartender for application.

\$15 per hour.

Tickets Selling Fast for Voices for Florida Keys Children's Annual Luncheon, Silent Auction & Fashion Show at Hawks Cay Resort

This highly-anticipated event is back and set to take place on Saturday, March 8. This annual gathering brings together community members, philanthropists, and advocates to support Voices for Florida Keys Children, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of abused, neglected, and disadvantaged children throughout Monroe County, Florida.

Operated by a 100% volunteer board of directors, Voices ensures that children in need receive medical care, educational support, tutoring, counseling,

social services, and other day-to-day essentials. In addition to its outreach programs, Voices proudly owns and funds two affordable homes in Key Largo, providing a safe, nurturing environment for children in need of stability and care and housing for aged-out youth.

Guests at the March 8 event will enjoy a delicious luncheon, an exciting silent auction featuring exclusive items and experiences, and a stunning fashion show—all in the breathtaking setting of Hawks Cay Resort. This is more than just an elegant afternoon; it is a powerful opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable children in our community.

"Every ticket purchased, every bid placed, and every donation made directly impacts the children we serve," said Krissy Carnahan, Events Co-Chair.

"This event not only raises critical funds but also raises awareness of the ongoing needs of children in Monroe County. For more information, to purchase tickets please visit our Facebook page, or to make a donation, please visit www.VoicesKids.org or contact Krissy Carnahan at 305-522-0280.



How to Get Involved:

- Purchase tickets now to secure your seat.
- Donate an auction item or service to contribute to our silent auction.
- Sponsor the event to showcase your business while supporting a meaningful cause.

LOST KEYCHAIN



Small - Gold "Colored" Key Chain - with 2 Silver Fobs made by my Father in the early 1950s. Huge loss for me!!! It went missing Feb. 2023; first weekend of February, at MM 90, oceanside - at the Coral Shores Art Fair and Church/ Garage Sale.

Sentimental Value • REWARD \$200

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Lunch 11:30 - 3:00
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Coco'Nut' Funnies

Pat 80 and Mick 87, were sitting on a park bench one morning. Mick had just finished his morning jog and wasn't even short of breath.

His 80-year-old friend was amazed at his stamina and asked him what he did to have so much energy.

Mick said, "Well, I eat rye bread every day. It keeps your energy level high and you'll have great stamina with the ladies."

So, on the way home Pat stopped at the bakery. As he was looking around, the saleslady asked if he needed any help. Pat said, "Do you have any rye bread?"

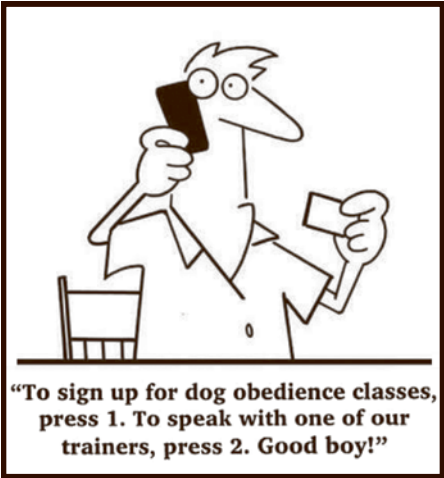
She said, "Yes, there's a whole shelf of it. Would you like some?"

He said, "I want five loaves."

She said, "My goodness, five loaves! By the time you get to the 3rd loaf, it'll be hard."

Pat replied, "I can't believe everybody knows about this but me!!"

I STOPPED UNDERSTANDING MATH WHEN THE ALPHABET DECIDED TO GET INVOLVED.



I DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS SUPPOSED TO KNOW HOW TO DO EVERYTHING BY MY SECOND RODEO

SEEMS LIKE A VERY LOW NUMBER OF RODEOS

I'M BANNED FROM CRUISE SHIPS AFTER THAT WHOLE POOP DECK MISUNDERSTANDING

Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend, Finney.

'Did you see the paper?' asked Gallagher. 'They say I died!!'

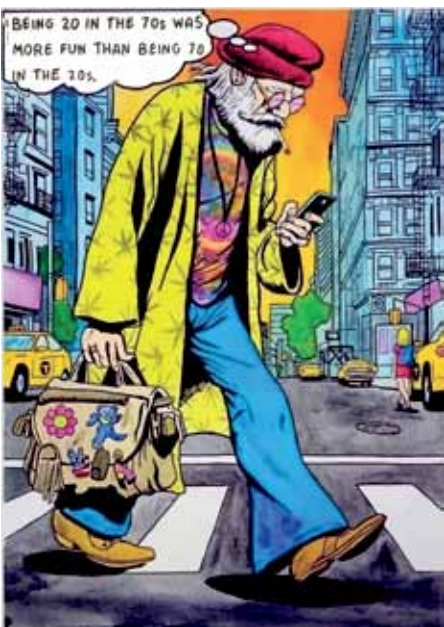
'Yes, I saw it!' replied Finney. 'Where are ye callin' from?'

WELCOME TO YOUR SIXTIES...

If you do not already have a mysterious ailment, one will be assigned to you shortly.



The best Safe Word you can use is "Meatloaf." It means "I would do anything for love but I won't do that."



Bought a chicken to make sandwiches. It doesn't. It shits on the floor.



I'VE BEEN TO A LOT OF PLACES BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN IN CAHOOTS. APPARENTLY YOU CAN'T GO ALONE. YOU HAVE TO BE IN CAHOOTS WITH SOMEONE. I'VE ALSO NEVER BEEN IN COGNITO, EITHER. I HEAR NOBODY RECOGNIZES YOU THERE. I HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN IN SANE. THEY DON'T HAVE AN AIRPORT. YOU HAVE TO BE DRIVEN THERE. I HAVE MADE SEVERAL TRIPS.

Credence: Who'll stop Lorraine?

Johnny Nash: I can see clearly now, Lorraine is gone.

Toto: I blessed Lorraine down in Africa.

Adele: I set fire to Lorraine

Barry Manilow: I made it through Lorraine.

Eruption: I cant stand Lorraine.

Lorraine: Knock it off.

Wouldn't it be ironic if Popeye's chicken was cooked in Olive Oil.



MAKE SURE YOUR KILT IS SHORT ENOUGH TO DO A JIG, BUT LONG ENOUGH TO HIDE YOUR LUCKY CHARMS!

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

I was in Florida....and I saw a bumper sticker on a parked car that read 'I miss The Bronx.'

So I broke the window, stole the radio and left a note that read, "I hope this helps."



WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PAINT POTATOES THIS EASTER, Y'ALL.

People act shocked when there is a shark sighting around here. Good rule of thumb for Florida. If you see water, taste it. If it's salty there are sharks in it... if not salty, there are alligators in it.

I do all my own stunts, but never intentionally

An elderly Irish woman of advanced age visited her doctor to ask his advice on reviving her husband's lagging libido.

'What about trying Viagra?' asked the doctor.

"Not a chance," she said... "He won't even take an aspirin."

"Not a problem," replied the doctor. "Give him an "Irish Viagra."

"What's this Irish Viagra?"

"You drop the Viagra tablet Into his coffee. He won't even taste It. Give it a try and call me in a week to let me know how things went."

A week later she called the doctor, who asked her about the results.

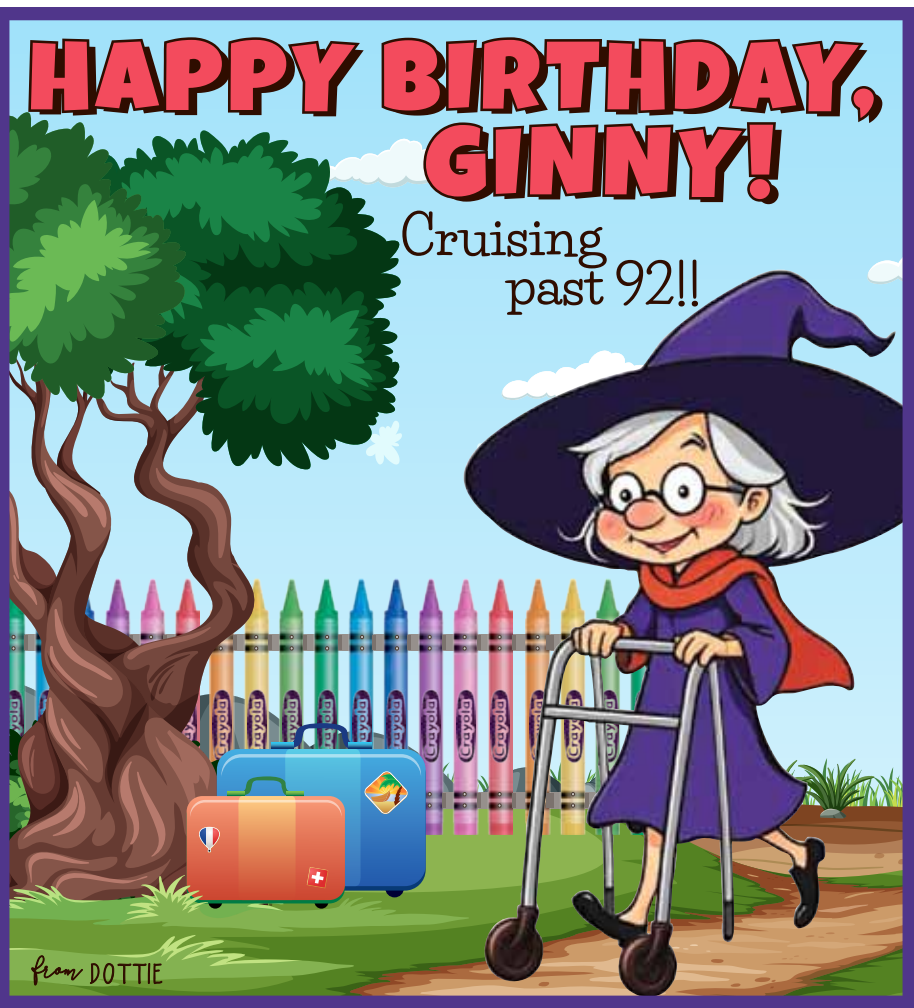
"Oh, faith, bejaysus and begor-rah!" she exclaimed. "T'was horrid! Just terrible, doctor!"

"Really? What happened?" asked the doctor.

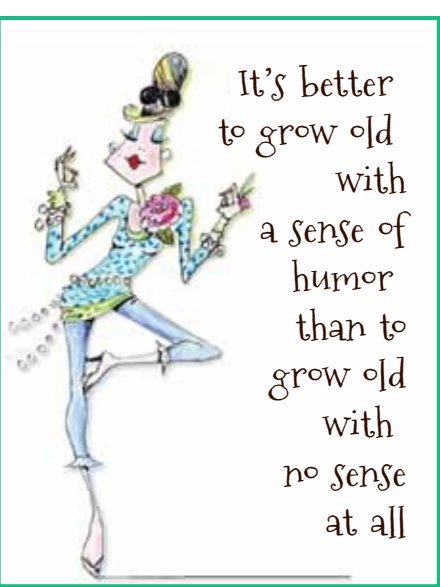
"Well I, I did as you advised and slipped it into his coffee and the effect was immediate. He jumped straight up, with a twinkle in his eye! With one swoop of his arm, he sent cups and tablecloth flying, then ripped me clothes to tatters and took me then and there on the tabletop! Twas a nightmare, I tell you, an absolute nightmare!"

"Why so terrible?" asked the doctor, "Do you mean the sex wasn't good?"

"It was the best I've had in 25 years! But sure as I'm sittin' here, I'll never be able to show me face in Starbucks again!"

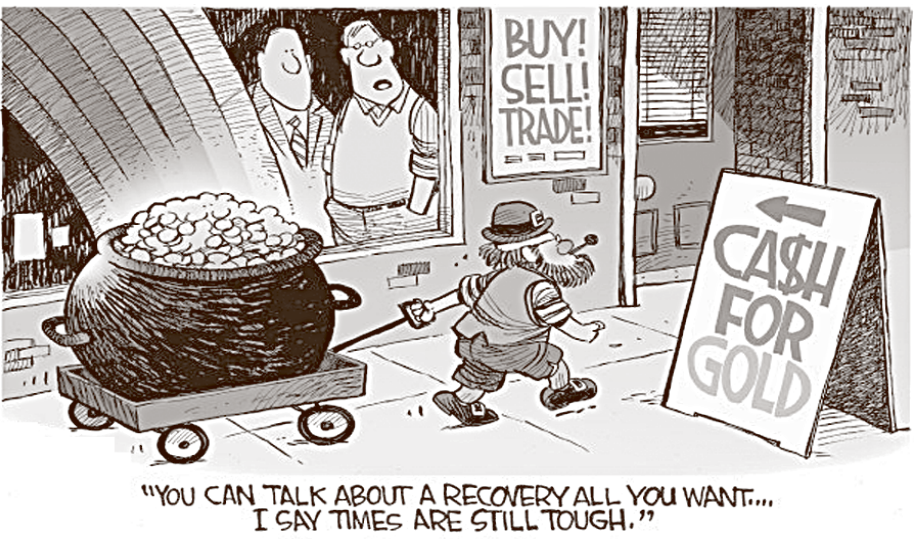


Not to get technical...but according to chemistry, alcohol is a solution.



MONEY TALKS

Mine keeps saying goodbye!



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Florida Keys Orchid, Fern and Bromeliad Society meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Key Largo Civic Club at 6:00pm.
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Sylvia



Benjamin



Ryan



Cinnamon



Sterling



Callie



Amber



Tyson



Alex



Rocky

Conch Characters / Around Town



Felix "The Catt" at Liki Tiki at Key Largo Moose Lodge.



In the Keys Kids Fishing Derby, *Silent Hunter's* junior angler Pablo Rodriguez earned top honors with two mahi-mahi.



UKHS at the Florida Keys Brewing Company's 10th Anniversary Party.



Congratulations — 35th Annual Cheeca Lodge and Spa Presidential Sailfish Tournament Crowns Florida Keys Gold Cup Sailfish Championship Winners, *Killbox*, in the final leg of the Gold Cup Series.



Marty Paez, Treasurer of the Friends of the Key Largo Library, was congratulated by MaryCarin Porter, a director with the Florida Keys Art Council, at the Unsung Hero event hosted by the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys. Marty's hard work and attention to detail keep the Friends legal and on track financially.



Hayden Gotsch (center) Top Angler in the Islamorada Bartender's Sailfish Tournament, with Tournament Director Dianne Harbaugh and Capt. Hunter Barron.



Conch blowing class at Key Largo Library... the next class is March 28, register at KeysLibraries.org. Photo by Lindi Mallison.



Florida Keys Orchid Society, which meets second Tuesday of each month at the Civic Club, packed the house in February ricks and tips of growing beautiful plants. Photo by Lindi Mallison.

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This Month's Live Entertainment and Events at the Lorelei							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
"SUNDAY SCHOOL" \$3 Bloody Marys, Mimosas & Screwdrivers every Sunday, 7 to 11 am				<i>Waterfront Dining</i>		1 John Ciulla 12-3 Uncle Rico 5:30-9:30	
2 Mark Hill 12-3 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	3 Carousers 5:30-9:30	4 Micah 5:30-9:30	5 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	6 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	7 Jade Storm 5:30-9:30	8 Abstract Radio 5:30-9:30	
9 Steve Venini 12-3 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	10 Carousers 5:30-9:30	11 Leah Sutter 5:30-9:30	12 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	13 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	14 Brothers of Others 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	15 Shin Dig 5:30-9:30	
16 Micah 12-3 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	17 Carousers 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	18 Mark Hill 5:30-9:30	19 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	20 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	21 Uncle Rico 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	22 Rearview Mirror 5:30-9:30	
23 Adrienne 12-3 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	24 Carousers 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	25 Steve Venini 5:30-9:30	26 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	27 Webb & Bellamy 5:30-9:30	28 Beach Bandits 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	29 TBA	
30 Mark Hill 12-3 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	31 Carousers 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	Open for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner • 7am-10pm Enjoy breakfast on the deck overlooking the water. Enjoy lunch or dinner on the beach.				LIVE MUSIC 7 DAYS A WEEK!	



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